

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 64

Adopted in Senate May 28, 1998

Secretary of the Senate

Adopted in Assembly July 27, 1998

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This resolution was received by the Secretary of
State this____ day of _____, 1998,
at ____o'clock __M.

Deputy Secretary of State

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RESOLUTION CHAPTER ____

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 64—Relative to the International Year of the Ocean.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 64, Alpert. International Year of the Ocean.

This measure would state the intent of the Legislature to join with other government agencies and organizations in designating 1998 as the International Year of the Ocean. The measure would also request the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Resources Agency to take actions to promote activities that support the International Year of the Ocean.

WHEREAS, The ocean affects our daily lives in important ways by providing food, minerals, and other natural resources, opportunities for recreation, and waterways that can be used for transportation purposes; and

WHEREAS, Though more than 70 percent of the surface of the Earth is covered by water, vast areas of the ocean remain unexplored and some of the greatest mysteries of the Earth still lie beneath our oceans; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations has declared 1998 as the International Year of the Ocean, and this designation provides an opportunity for governments, organizations, and individuals to raise public awareness of the role the ocean plays in our lives, helps to recognize the importance of the ocean and marine environment, and encourages efforts to ensure the sustainable development of ocean resources; and

WHEREAS, Governor Wilson signed Executive Order W-162-97, making it the policy of the State of California to encourage and facilitate planning for the ocean and the coast of California through a number of efforts; and

WHEREAS, The Governor's executive order directs numerous state agencies, including the Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection



Agency, to take specified actions in 1998 to access, conserve, restore, and manage California's ocean resources and the ocean ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, The California Ocean Resources Management Act of 1990 (Division 27 (commencing with Section 36000) of the Public Resources Code) establishes the California Ocean Resources Management Program, which is intended to help guide the comprehensive and coordinated management, conservation, and enhancement of California's ocean resources for the benefit of current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, A report entitled California's Ocean Resources: An Agenda for the Future, which was prepared pursuant to the California Ocean Resources Management Act of 1990 (Division 27 (commencing with Section 36000) of the Public Resources Code) finds that (1) California's ocean ecosystem health is dependent on a series of complex interrelationships between land and sea, which must be recognized in any management scheme; (2) substantial economic benefits can be derived from ocean dependent industries; (3) ocean research, education, and technology development activities are necessary components for management; and (4) existing governmental processes are in need of enhanced coordination; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of designating 1998 as the International Year of the Ocean is to focus the attention of the public, governments, and decisionmakers on the importance of the ocean and marine environment, and to highlight ways in which ocean and marine resources can be sustained and protected through the effective management of those resources; and

WHEREAS, In 1993, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Education, Science, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) passed a resolution calling for an International Year of the Ocean, and the United Nations General Assembly formally adopted a similar proposal through its Resolution No. A/RES/49/13, which was adopted in December 1994; and



WHEREAS, The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is leading the federal effort to promote the International Year of the Ocean and, as part of the Ocean Principals Group (OPG), is working with other organizations in this country to ensure that the federal government contributes to activities that further the objectives of the International Year of the Ocean; and

WHEREAS, OPG agencies are coordinating and promoting the International Year of the Ocean by organizing activities that highlight important issues relating to maritime transportation, national security, ocean resources, marine environmental quality, recreation and tourism, and weather, climate, and natural hazards; and

WHEREAS, International Year of the Ocean activities demonstrate to a broad audience that the ocean and its resources are vital to supporting all life on Earth, and that the ocean is a key source of food, medicine, energy, and commerce; and

WHEREAS, The ocean is the next frontier for landscapes and life-forms that await discovery; and

WHEREAS, Industries that depend on a healthy coast and ocean contribute at least \$17.3 billion to the state's economy, and provide an estimated 370,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, Tourism in coastal areas contributes approximately \$10 billion to the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, Eighty percent of the state's population lives within 30 miles of the coast; and

WHEREAS, The 25th anniversary of the enactment of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Sec. 1251 et seq.) was celebrated in October 1997; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Legislature recognizes the importance of preserving, developing, and protecting valuable ocean and marine resources and joins with the United Nations and other government agencies and organizations in designating 1998 as the International Year of the Ocean; and be it further

Resolved, That it is the intent of the Legislature that the California Environmental Protection Agency and the



Resources Agency take actions to promote activities that support the International Year of the Ocean; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the Governor, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the Resources Agency.



Attest:

Secretary of State

